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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman

Rex F. Hibbs, Commissioner

UCC Building — P. O. Box 1728 — Helena, Montana James J. Flaherty, Commissioner

FL. 263

HELENA INDEPENDENT-RECORD
HELENA, MONTANA

MAY-JUNE, 1965

Summer Job Expansion 2,600 Ahead of Last Year

Employment Keeps Record Levels—Employment levels in Montana's non-farm industries reached an estimated 176,600 in May, an increase of 3,900 from the April employment figure, and up 2,600 from May of last year. May was the fifth successive month to set a new high employment record as compared with the same month a year ago.

Expansion Well Distributed—Major industry groups contributing to employment growth from April to May of this year included construction, up 1,400; trade industries, up 1,000; manufacturing, up 600; and service industries, up 300. Employment gains of 200 each occurred during May in mining; transportation, utilities, and communications; and government.

Five Groups Above 1964—Employment comparisons with May this year with May of 1964 reveal five industry groups with higher employment levels this year. Trade was at the head of the list with a gain of 1,300 workers, 900 at the retail level and 400 in wholesale firms. Employment in government was up 1,200 with 100 more on federal payrolls and 1,100 added to state and local government staffs. Service industry employment exceeded last May by 400 workers. Payrolls of construction contractors were 300 heavier this May than last. Manufacturing industries showed a more moderate increment of 100 workers. Three other industry groups did not fare as well. Declines from last May were led by mining with a drop of 500. A gain of 100 in coal and quarrying offset a loss of 100 in petroleum pro-

duction while a decline in metal mining recorded a loss of 500 for the mining industry as a whole. Lesser declines of 100 each showed up in the transportation, communications and utilities group, and in finance, insurance and real estate segments.

Logging Set For Expansion—Logging and lumbering, one of the most sensitive of the seasonal industries, started to show good recovery from the effects of the spring break up period. Although snow, rain, and bad roads still hampered logging operations in some sections of the state, 500 lumber industry workers were called back to work during May. Employment will continue to build up during the next three months until the peak is reached in September. Most of the larger lumber mills were able to maintain steady production schedules with stock piled logs.

Construction Will Remain Active—The good employment months for the construction industry are still ahead. A good agenda of work is now in progress including interstate highway projects, Yellowstone Dam, expansion of the Minuteman Missile complex, college structures, public and commercial buildings at most of the state's expanding centers of population, as well as housing projects, apartment buildings, motels, and private homes. A heavy schedule of new commercial building is waiting to start at Butte. Work which added another pot line at the aluminum plant in Columbia Falls has been completed. Construction of another is planned there for completion within the

next two years. It will provide more than 100 jobs for production workers when ready for operation.

Main Street In High Gear—A healthy rate of consumer buying plus the openings of national parks and resort areas catering to the tourist trade made for a good showing in trade and service firms during May and June. Many of the jobs at the parks and resort centers were filled by young workers who follow the season every year. Shortages of cooks, waitresses, maids, and clerical workers developed in some areas as labor demand stepped up for the summer season.

Youth Opportunity Campaign Underway—With the end of school terms, thousands of high school and college students registered for summer employment at the state's 22 local employment offices. Some have had some work experience while others are novices eager to test their muscles in the labor market. All are interested in jobs. A nationwide Youth Opportunity Campaign is now in progress with a goal of 750,000 additional jobs for young people this summer. Cooperation is being solicited from employers, labor unions, government officials, church groups, and civic and community organizations to join forces in a concerted job development effort to provide work for these young people. During the past three weeks 270 Montana employers have responded with 955 job openings. At the same time, 3,902 young workers placed their applications for employment.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES

(per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	Apr. 1965	Mar. 1965	Apr. 1964	Apr. 1965	Mar. 1965	Apr. 1964	Apr. 1965	Mar. 1965	Apr. 1964	Apr. 1965	Mar. 1965	Apr. 1964	Apr. 1965	Mar. 1965	Apr. 1964
All Manufacturing.....	4.7	3.6	6.0	3.8	2.8	3.9	3.5	3.1	4.9	2.1	1.5	2.0	.7	.6	2.3
Durable Goods.....	5.9	4.6	7.7	4.7	3.5	4.8	4.6	4.3	6.7	2.8	2.0	2.3	.9	.9	3.4
Primary Metal.....	5.8	6.1	12.8	3.8	3.8	3.3	3.0	3.4	11.7	1.3	.8	1.8	*	*	8.4
Nondurable Goods.....	2.6	1.8	2.8	2.2	1.6	2.2	1.6	1.1	1.7	.9	.6	1.5	.3	.2	.1
All Mining.....	8.8	6.8	10.4	3.4	2.2	5.2	7.9	6.1	7.1	3.4	3.0	2.7	1.5	1.0	2.4
Metal Mining.....	7.6	5.0	8.8	1.3	.7	2.7	7.5	6.9	5.9	3.4	3.2	1.3	1.6	.5	2.6

*Less Than .05

Along the Hiring Line — Field Summary for May 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Phillipsburg—(330 jobseekers, 164 new, 228 men, 102 women). Increased activity in construction, logging, and smelting key factors in improved economic condition. Good pace of hiring at smelter with start of ferro-manganese department and summer employment schedule for students. Upswing in trade, service, and farm along seasonal lines.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(1,680 jobseekers, 598 new, 1,195 men, 485 women). Employment directions in most industry groups keep at good trends with some temporary interruptions of outdoor work by wet weather. City building permits for residential and commercial units totaled \$1.1 million during May. Construction forces include 600 at Yellowstone Dam and about 200 on area highway construction. Healthy trends cover trade and service industries with increased consumer spending and start of tourism. Farm labor hiring accelerated after periods of wet weather.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(292 jobseekers, 285 new, 154 men, 138 women). Construction activity at forefront of labor market activity. Projects include 5 story federal building, 11 story college dormitory, municipal building and new main street. Logging and sawmill operations making slow recovery after spring break-up. Trade and service volume rising.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(1,202 jobseekers, 412 new, 723 men, 479 women). Interest in job corps and other youth programs brought marked increase in young worker applications. Labor demand tied chiefly to building construction and mining activities. Several major building projects in planning stages. Wet weather held back recall of highway construction workers.

CUT BANK—(230 jobseekers, 38 new, 190 men, 40 women). Hiring in industry and farm exceeded last month and last year with construction and agriculture heading the list. Activity in trade and service shows some improvement with start of tourist season.

DILLON—(96 jobseekers, 75 new, 67 men, 29 women). Late spring with snow and rain showers caused some concern to livestock men and delayed start of farm field work. Work on building and highway construction projects also thrown off schedule. Construction activity should be strong force on local

MONTANA CIVILIAN WORK FORCE

(In Thousands)

	May 65	Apr. 65	May 64	Apr. 65 to May 65	May 64 to May 65
Civilian Work Force	250.6	250.1	256.6	+0.5	-6.0
Total Employment	241.1	237.4	243.8	+3.7	-2.7
Total Non-agricultural Employment	206.5	201.7	203.8	+4.8	+2.7
(Non-agricultural Wage & Salary)	176.6	172.7	174.0	+3.9	+2.6
Total Agricultural Employment	34.6	35.7	40.0	-1.1	-5.4
Labor Management Disputes	.2	.2	.2	0.0	0.0
Total Unemployment	9.3	12.5	12.6	-3.2	-3.3
Percent Unemployed	3.7	5.0	4.9		
U. S. Unemployment Rate		4.8	4.9		

scene when weather improves. Trade and service shows good uptrend.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(188 jobseekers, 62 new, 105 men, 83 women). Most outdoor work in construction and agriculture delayed by periods of wet weather. Construction volume shows decrease from last year; some workers leaving area for employment elsewhere. Some downturn noted in a few main street firms including lumber yards, hardware stores, and cafes. Opening of new meat packing plant made 6 additional jobs.

GLENDE, Circle, Wibaux—(118 jobseekers, 54 new, 76 men, 42 women). Absence of new major construction projects shows effects on local employment scene. Projects in progress include bank, retirement home, cafe, and several residences. Bids not yet let for new Junior College. Seeding of sugar beets and small grain crops completed.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(1,133 jobseekers, 498 new, 546 men, 587 women). Hiring by trade industries was the most active force during May. Construction employment has reached peak with most local craftsmen on jobs. Employment in manufacturing held at good levels with most worker additions to units at the smelter. Current shortage of qualified farm and ranch hands.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(214 jobseekers, 88 new, 115 men, 99 women). Seasonal upturn in logging and forest service activities accounted for most May hires. Construction exhibits fairly active trends with new shopping center the major project. Labor turnover prevalent in trade and service groups. Farm labor demand reduced by bad weather; some fruit trees damaged by cold.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—(141 jobseekers, 83 new, 85 men, 56 women). Hiring in industry and farm starting

to pick up gradually after periods of bad weather. Most small construction projects in full swing. Start of work on \$700,000 building project will require 25 men. Main street trade and service business improving.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(322 jobseekers, 218 new, 187 men, 135 women). Job placement totals show some decline from last year due mainly to extended period of cold wet weather during much of May. Labor demand fairly good, however, in all but unskilled classifications. Worker shortages of cooks, waitresses, and nurses aides evident. Upswing noted in lumbering and logging.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(1,024 jobseekers, 314 new, 771 men, 253 women). Increased activity in construction and lumbering highlighted job developments during May. More than 350 woods and sawmill workers returned to jobs. Night shifts added to some mills. 44 unit housing development underway as well as 20 other new housing starts. Trade and service units show favorable upturn. New aluminum pot line at Columbia Falls plant to start production August 1; another planned for completion in 1968.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—(118 jobseekers, 72 new, 55 men, 63 women). Farm and industry shared equally in May hiring. Farm worker shortages persisted throughout the month. Nearly \$1.5 million in construction in progress including 3 schools, church, road and street work. Main street business enjoys good volume.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(149 jobseekers, 67 new, 84 men, 65 women). Employment directions edging up gradually after term of bad weather. Good demand developed for clerical, trade, and service industry workers as Yel-

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1956	156.8	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.8
1961	156.9	154.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.4	169.0	166.2	167.1
1962	158.3	158.2	159.6	166.2	172.4	180.1	180.5	181.2	178.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963	163.9	163.0	165.0	170.2	175.1	181.0	182.3	183.8	181.5	179.7	176.6	173.6	174.6
1964	166.2	164.3	165.1	169.6	174.0	181.3	182.3	183.0	180.9	178.2	174.1	172.4	174.3
1965	168.1	167.0	168.3	172.7	176.6*								

*Preliminary Estimate

Along the Hiring Line — Field Summary for May 1

lowstone Park season opened. Railroad traffic good but demand for maintenance workers below last year. Logging and sawmills making slow recovery. Good farm labor demand.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(103 jobseekers, 74 new, 51 men, 52 women). Strong trends cover over-all economy despite some weather-caused work delays. Farm work season several weeks behind normal schedules. Main street business holding up well.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—(1,033 jobseekers, 594 new, 714 men, 319 women). Hiring upswing occurred in most industries during May. Manufacturing, trade, logging, construction, and government provided most new jobs. Worker shortages included timber fallers, stenographers, machinists, and carpenters. Farm hiring kept on the brisk side.

POLSON—(267 jobseekers, 70 new, 206 men, 61 women). Increased activity in woods and sawmill work chief factor in reducing unemployment during May. Most loggers and truck drivers back on the job. Good construction agenda of small projects.

SHELBY—(103 jobseekers, 83 new, 66 men, 37 women). End of school term and in-migration of workers seeking work on missile and dam projects increased worker application files during May. Most industry groups shared in seasonal job gains during the month.

SIDNEY—(94 jobseekers, 51 new, 36 men, 58 women). Snow and cold weather was a common occurrence during past 60 days but failed to dampen job hires in most industry groups. Job placements exceed last year by 33 per cent. Extremely strong farm labor demand found shortages of qualified hands.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(115 jobseekers, 51 new, 91 men, 24 women). Logging and sawmill activities at near peak production. Good seasonal upswing also noted in forest service operations. Construction projects down from last year. Main street trends at good seasonal levels. Farm job orders not too plentiful.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(139 jobseekers, 67 new, 93 men, 46 women). Good schedule of road and building projects interrupted temporarily during May by bad weather. Oil exploration and drilling activities remain fairly stable but little hiring noted. Pace of main street hiring up with good labor demand in cafes, motels, service stations, etc. Active farm labor demand.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	May 1965 (2)	Apr. 1965 (3)	May 1964	Apr. '65 to May '65	May '64 Against May '65
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	176,600	172,700	174,000	3,900	2,600
Manufacturing	21,200	20,600	21,100	600	100
Durable goods	13,100	12,600	13,400	500	300
Lumber and timber products	7,900	7,400	8,400	500	500
Primary metals	3,500	3,500	3,300	00	200
Other (4)	1,700	1,700	1,700	00	00
Nondurable goods	8,100	8,000	7,700	100	400
Food and kindred products	4,100	4,100	4,000	00	100
Printing and publishing	1,800	1,800	1,700	00	100
Petroleum refining	1,300	1,200	1,200	100	100
Other (5)	900	900	800	00	100
Mining	7,000	6,800	7,500	200	500
Metal mining	4,300	4,300	4,800	00	500
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	1,000	900	900	100	100
Petroleum-natural gas production	1,700	1,600	1,800	100	100
Contract Construction	12,000	10,600	11,700	1,400	300
Contractors, building construction	3,700	3,200	4,000	500	300
Contractors, other than building	3,800	3,100	4,100	700	300
Contractors, special trade	4,500	4,300	3,600	200	900
Transportation and utilities	17,300	17,100	17,400	200	100
Interstate railroads	7,500	7,400	7,700	100	200
Transportation except railroads	3,800	3,800	3,800	00	00
Utilities including communication	6,000	5,900	5,900	100	100
Trade	42,300	41,300	41,000	1,000	1,300
Wholesale trade	8,400	8,400	8,000	00	400
Retail trade	33,900	32,900	33,000	1,000	900
General merchandise and apparel	6,700	6,500	6,100	200	600
Food stores	5,200	5,200	5,200	00	00
Eating and drinking establishments	9,100	8,500	8,800	600	300
Automotive and filling stations	6,900	6,700	6,600	200	300
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	6,000	6,000	6,300	00	300
Finance, insurance and real estate	6,900	6,900	7,000	00	100
Services and miscellaneous	24,500	24,200	24,100	300	400
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	3,000	2,800	2,900	200	100
Personal services	2,100	2,100	2,000	00	100
Other (6)	19,400	19,300	19,200	100	200
Government	45,400	45,200	44,200	200	1,200
Federal	11,100	10,700	11,000	400	100
State and local	34,300	34,500	33,200	—200	1,100
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	22,400	21,900	21,400	500	1,000
Manufacturing	3,300	3,300	3,100	00	200
Contract construction	2,400	1,900	1,900	500	500
Transportation and utilities	2,100	2,100	2,100	00	00
Trade, wholesale and retail	5,600	5,500	5,400	100	200
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,200	1,300	1,300	—100	100
Services and miscellaneous (7)	3,600	3,600	3,600	00	00
Government	4,200	4,200	4,000	00	200
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	25,100	24,900	24,600	200	500
Manufacturing	3,100	3,000	2,900	100	200
Contract construction	1,600	1,600	1,900	00	300
Transportation and utilities	2,600	2,600	2,600	00	00
Trade, wholesale and retail	7,800	7,800	7,500	00	300
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,400	1,500	1,400	—100	00
Services and Miscellaneous (7)	4,800	4,700	4,500	100	300
Government	3,800	3,700	3,800	100	00

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 877 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,160 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit member-

ship organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN MAY 1965 AND MAY 1964

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placements								UI Claims*	
	May, 1965		May 1964		May, 1965		May 1964		May, 1965				May 1964				Wk. 5-28	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1964	1963
Anaconda	164	9	66	8	330	30	268	37	74	27	101	17	51	33	84	27	133	174
Billings	598	143	832	139	1,680	310	2,607	526	703	1,149	1,852	279	657	806	1,463	260	581	811
Bozeman	285	29	301	34	292	51	221	43	232	95	327	60	240	117	357	60	91	76
Butte	412	60	266	58	1,202	155	995	199	147	20	167	37	79	8	87	27	372	587
Cut Bank	38	8	27	3	230	40	374	105	74	71	145	65	63	66	129	58	57	145
Dillon	75	25	45	15	96	11	49	17	55	129	184	57	37	138	175	62	45	28
Glasgow	62	11	101	15	188	17	192	26	104	55	159	38	97	35	132	18	121	74
Glendive	54	2	71	1	118	4	169	8	65	369	434	17	57	692	749	16	44	21
Great Falls	498	57	662	83	1,133	166	1,520	317	409	237	646	156	321	176	497	147	465	666
Hamilton	88	9	48	9	214	26	203	29	67	33	100	18	55	145	200	20	75	85
Havre	83	2	74	6	141	26	146	17	87	80	167	59	85	87	172	39	98	95
Helena	218	26	175	22	322	49	349	64	205	49	254	93	234	151	385	137	225	271
Kallispell	314	41	319	56	1,024	236	1,416	398	227	20	247	36	188	24	212	56	458	680
Lewistown	72	8	78	12	118	12	168	30	62	137	199	24	57	77	134	45	63	103
Livingston	67	9	85	4	149	16	191	28	142	42	184	33	136	40	176	47	84	91
Miles City	74	5	89	8	103	14	116	28	81	463	544	29	104	532	636	30	54	85
Missoula	594	56	622	76	1,033	209	1,318	280	347	105	452	94	316	298	614	96	297	323
Polson	70	8	45	5	267	53	205	36	53	1	54	12	50	14	64	18	107	102
Shelby	83	18	99	25	103	14	133	24	56	109	165	43	54	68	122	36	44	46
Sidney	51	6	55	12	94	5	115	13	68	229	297	29	42	1,181	1,223	9	36	37
Thom. Falls	51	4	70	3	115	15	129	28	41	3	44	9	68	10	78	13	48	85
Wolf Point	67	9	50	7	139	24	106	21	59	52	111	28	36	34	70	10	57	74
Billings YOC**	448				736				75	4	79							
TOTALS	4,466	545	4,180	601	9,827	1,483	10,990	2,274	3,433	3,479	6,912	1,233	3,027	4,732	7,759	1,231	3,555	4,659

*Includes 304 claims of the Fed. UC Program 464 same a year ago. **Youth Opportunity Center.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	May (1) 1965	Apr. (2) 1965	May 1964	May (1) 1965	Apr. (2) 1965	May 1964	May (1) 1965	Apr. (2) 1965	May 1964
All Manufacturing	111.60	111.08	110.29	40.0	40.1	40.4	2.79	2.77	2.73
Durable Goods	107.87	107.60	106.11	40.4	40.3	40.5	2.67	2.67	2.62
Primary Metals	113.29	113.15	108.14	39.2	39.7	40.2	2.89	2.85	2.69
Nondurable Goods	119.58	120.29	118.89	40.4	40.5	40.3	2.96	2.97	2.95
Food and Kindred Products	105.00	107.44	113.26	41.5	42.3	42.9	2.53	2.54	2.64
All Mining	119.59	113.40	115.05	39.6	37.8	39.0	3.02	3.00	2.95
Metal Mining	110.23	110.23	112.48	36.5	36.5	38.0	3.02	3.02	2.96
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and Communications	112.23	114.77	108.81	38.7	40.7	39.0	2.90	2.82	2.79

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
COMMISSION OF MONTANAUCC BUILDING
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HELENA, MONTANA

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